

## DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW BLIND WEEVILS FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND TASMANIA.

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Considering the large numbers of blind Coleoptera that occur in other parts of the world, it is remarkable that only two species should hitherto have been recorded from Australia. These are *Halorhynchus cæcus*, Woll., from Western Australia, and *Illaphanus Stephensi*, MacL., from New South Wales. Both of these live close to the sea-beach.

No cave-inhabiting species are known, although at least one blind spider occurs in the Jenolan Caves in New South Wales and another in the Chudleigh Caves in Tasmania.

I have now to add an additional beach-inhabiting species from Western Australia, and a species from Tasmania which lives in the nests of ants (or at least the specimen described was obtained from an ant-nest).\*

### HALORHYNCHUS GENICULATUS, n.sp.

Pale reddish-testaceous, extreme base and apex of prothorax, elytral suture, muzzle and knees darker. Clothed with long straggling whitish hair.

*Head* sparsely and indistinctly, rostrum densely punctate, the punctures sparser posteriorly. *Prothorax* with round and rather shallow punctures, denser and larger on sides than on disc. *Elytra* seriate-punctate, punctures of moderate size and somewhat irregular; interstices gently convex, at base feebly, beyond

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\* Since this paper was read I have taken in Tasmania two specimens of a very minute blind clavicorn.—A.M.L.

the middle very distinctly rugulose. Two basal segments of *abdomen* with moderately large punctures. Length (including rostrum) 2, width  $\frac{4}{5}$  mm.

*Hab.*—Geraldton, W.A.

Differs from *cæcus* in being smaller, thinner, and paler; the hair shorter, the abdomen more distinctly punctate, and the anterior tibial hooks shorter and thinner. It is possible that it should be regarded as a variety only of *H. cæcus*, but it is at least a variety worthy of a name. A number of specimens were obtained from the "outer beach" at Geraldton burrowing at the roots of a small species of salt-bush (*Atriplex*).

#### HALORHYNCHUS CÆCUS, Woll.

This species I have repeatedly searched for under seaweed and beach-growing plants at and about Fremantle (the original locality), but never succeeded in obtaining more than two specimens. These were taken from about four inches below the surface at the roots of a species of spinifex grass growing close to Cottesloe Beach.

#### TASMANICA, n.g.

*Head* not distinctly separated from the rostrum, their outline slightly incurved at middle, combined length equal to about two-thirds of that of prothorax. *Eyes* absent. *Scape* terminal, stout, slightly longer than funicle; funicle with the 1st joint as long as the four following combined, 2nd-7th equal in length and strongly transverse; club ovate. *Prothorax* depressed, longer than wide, sides gently rounded. *Scutellum* absent. *Elytra* not much wider than prothorax, about once and one-fourth the length of the rest of the body; shoulders slightly rounded, apex conjointly rounded. *Metasternum* the length of coxæ. *Abdomen* with the 1st segment longer than 2nd down middle, but shorter at sides, its suture with 2nd feeble but traceable, intercoxal process transversely oblong; 3rd and 4th of equal size, their sutures deep and wide. *Legs* stout, anterior coxæ contiguous, intermediate moderately, posterior widely separated; femora (especially the four anterior)

very stout; tibiæ dilated towards apex, lower apex with a short stout spur; three basal joints of tarsi short, 3rd deeply bilobed, claw-joint stout, longer than the rest combined; claws long and strong. Elongate, depressed, feebly clothed.

Of the five blind genera described by Mr. Wollaston as belonging to the *Cossonide*,\* *Halorhynchus* has the funicle five-jointed; *Raymondionymus*, *Alaocyba* and *Onycholips* have it six-jointed; whilst only *Lipommata* has it seven-jointed. The last genus (from Madeira) is perhaps the nearest ally of the one above described, although the only known species is described as having a convex body, ovate outline, porrect shoulders, short antennæ, not quite contiguous anterior coxæ, and pseudo-tetramerous tarsi with the 3rd joint simple. I prefer therefore to place it in the true *Cossonides* in the vicinity of *Lipommata*.

#### TASMANICA MYRMECOPHILA, n.sp.

Very pale testaceous and slightly shining. Clothed with rather long and very sparse pale hairs, sparser on prothorax and longer on elytra than elsewhere.

*Head* and rostrum densely and rugosely punctate, hairs of the latter curved inwardly in front. *Prothorax* with large deep and regular punctures which cause the sides from some directions to appear serrate. *Elytra* with regular series of large round deep punctures, slightly larger than those on prothorax but not so close together; interstices gently convex, very feebly (more noticeably so towards sides than suture) rugulose. *Under surface* with large punctures, but which are neither deep nor close together. Length (including rostrum)  $1\frac{2}{3}$ , width  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

*Hab.*—Hobart, Tasm.

The specimen described is the only one I have ever seen, although the insect has been repeatedly searched for. It was kindly presented to me by Mr. J. R. Norman who obtained it under a stone in the nest of a small red ant, and who thought at the time of capture that it belonged to the *Pselaphidae*.

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\* On the Genera of the *Cossonide*: Trans. Ent. Soc. 1873, p. 427.